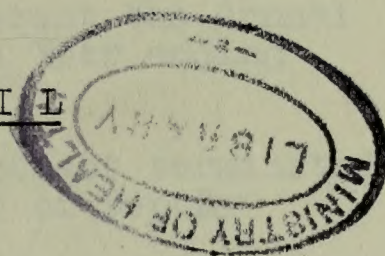


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SHERINGHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Howlett and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending 31st. December, 1949.

Dr. W.S. Parker's appointment terminated on April 14th, when he left to take up the post of Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Brighton.

The Post of Medical Officer of Health for Sheringham is combined with that for Cromer, North Walsham and Erpingham, and with the Post of Assistant County Medical Officer for Area No.2 of the County of Norfolk.

No event occurred during the year of sufficient importance to merit special mention in the preface.

VITAL STATISTICS. - Little comment can be made on these, as the numbers are too small to enable significant conclusions to be drawn. Sheringham, however, appears to differ little from England and Wales as a whole.

FOOD POISONING. - No case was reported in the Year 1949.

ICE CREAM. - Ice Cream samples were taken regularly throughout the year. It may be useful at this point to say a few words about the Methylene Blue Test. This test is performed as a routine on all samples of Ice Cream. It is used since it is the only means known to us of rapidly assessing the number of bacteria present in the sample. It tells us nothing about the nature of the bacteria - whether they are harmful or not - and merely gives us an estimate of the number. Since bacteria are present everywhere, it is obvious that even exposure to the air will possibly cause a large population in the Ice Cream. We may therefore regard the production of an Ice Cream with a low bacterial count as a triumph on the part of the manufacturer.

The grading of Ice Cream, in the reports periodically submitted to the Council, refers to the Methylene Blue Test.

The microscopical examination of Ice Cream samples is also regularly performed.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	929.
Population (Registrar General Estimate, 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	4,960.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1949.	...	...	...	...	...	1,543.
Total Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	...	£37,041.
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£147.18.4.

Social Conditions. The Urban District of Sheringham is situated on the North Coast of Norfolk, facing North. It is bounded by the sea on the North and by a low range of wooded hills which fall generally for a mile from the South, it adjoins the Erpingham Rural District on three sides, and has on its outskirts such picturesque places as the Roman Camp, Pretty Corner and the village of Upper Sheringham.

During the summer months visitors in abundance resort to Sheringham for the bracing air, fine sands, golf links and scenery.

The population is composed of (1) fishermen, (2) those whose business it is to let rooms and tradesmen, and (3) a constantly increasing class who resort to Sheringham for its natural beauties, its fine golf links, and its bracing air.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total.	Males,	Females.
Live Births	- Legitimate	74	44	30
	Illegitimate	7	3	4
	Total	81	47	34

Illegitimacy Rate ... 8.6

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 16.3

Still Births - Nil.

Birth Rate - 1942	- 16.8	per 1,000 populations
1943	- 16.6	" "
1944	- 23.78	" "
1945	- 18.23	" "
1946	- 20.88	" "
1947	- 22.17	" "
1948	- 17.9	" "
1949	- 16.3	" "

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:-

From Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil.
From Other Causes	...	...	...	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 related live births - 40.0

Number of deaths under one year of age:-

Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total.
2	1	3

Death Rate, England ... 11.7

Deaths.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	81	36	45

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 16.3.

Deaths Classified by Cause and Sex:-

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Cancer	6	8	14
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8	12	20
Heart Disease... ..	11	14	25
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	2	3
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Pneumonia.	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	-	2
Bright's Disease	2	-	2
All Other Causes	2	6	8
Totals.	36	45	81

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health:-

W.S. PARKER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

As from the 14th. April, 1949.

J.H.F. NORBURY, M.B.B.S. (London),
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:-

Mr. R.H. SERSHALL,
CERT.S.I.B., A.M.INST.S.E., M.R.SAN.I.,
Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, which came into operation in 1948, Health Services are provided almost entirely by official bodies. There is a limited amount of private practice.

The official Bodies are four in number:-

- (1) The Norfolk Executive Council.
This provides the General Practitioner, Dental, Pharmaceutical, and Ophthalmic Services.
- (2) The Regional Hospital Board.
The Country as a whole has been divided into Regions, and the Regions into Areas, for administrative purposes. Sheringham lies in the East Anglian Region, and the Cromer Area. Cromer & District Hospital is the General Hospital for the Area, and provides specialist out-patient clinics for patients from anywhere within the Area. The Sanatoria at Kelling, near Holt, are also administered by the Regional Hospital Board, as are the Fletcher Convalescent Home at Cromer, and the Longacre Maternity Home at West Runton.

At present Infectious Diseases are treated at East Dereham Isolation Hospital, a distance of some 20 miles away. This cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory, but the

authorities have promised that the former Isolation Hospital at Roughton, near Cromer, will be reopened if there are sufficient cases in the district to warrant it.

(3) The County Council.

The County Council provides, through its various departments:-

(a) The School Medical Service.

In addition to the medical inspection of the children at the schools, a weekly Minor Ailment Clinic for Schoolchildren is held at the Schools on Friday mornings. The School Nurse visits children in their homes where necessary.

(b) The Maternity & Child Welfare Service.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held in the Youth Centre at 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday in the month.

(c) Health Visiting.

All infants under five are visited regularly in their homes by a qualified nurse.

(d) Midwifery.

(e) Home Nursing.

(f) Vaccination & Immunisation.

This is performed both by the Assistant County Medical Officer and by General Practitioners acting for the County Council.

(g) Ambulance Services.

The Sheringham Town Ambulance Committee is responsible to the County Council for the provision of an Ambulance Service for the Sheringham district.

(h) General Measures for the Prevention of Illness, Care, and After-Care, including the provision of Nursing Equipment.

(i) Home Helps.

(j) Mental Health Services.

(k) General Welfare Services, under the supervision of the Welfare Officer.

He visits Sheringham on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. and is available for interview at the Council Offices at that time.

(4) The Urban District Council.

The District Council is, as ever, responsible for the control of Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health and Hygiene, acting mainly through the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Note:- Laboratory Services are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, by the Ministry of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water. - The Sheringham Gas and Water Company serve water to all the properties within the Urban District by a piped supply. The collecting ground, pumping station and reservoirs are situated in the Sheringham Woods, a situation which is isolated and enclosed approximately half-a-mile South of the Town.

The Water is derived:

- (a) From springs situated within the collecting grounds, and stored in reservoirs.
- (b) From two deep wells sunk in chalk - 400 feet deep approximately. The water is pumped into a reservoir at a higher level to supply by gravitation the high-lying parts of the town.
- (i) (a) Quality of Water. - Regular monthly samples of the Company's Water as supplied to the Sheringham consumers have been taken by the Council's Sanitary Inspector and submitted for bacteriological examination, the result of which has proved the water to be of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.
- (b) Quantity of Water Supply. - The quantity of water supplied in the Urban District is sufficient for all purposes during dry weather. The quantity of water obtained from the springs naturally varies a little during the summer and dry weather, but the level of the water in the wells varies little however much it is pumped and has never shown signs of failing.
- (ii) The Counties Public Health Laboratory carried out monthly bacteriological examinations and half-yearly chemical analysis of the treated water as supplied in this Urban District during the period under review, all of which proved to be of very high standard of purity. Daily tests were also carried out on the Spring and Well waters, both treated and untreated.
- (iii) The water supplied within the Urban District is not liable to plumbo-solvent action, as the p.H. Reaction of the water is neutral or on the alkaline side of neutrality. All the water service pipes are laid on in galvanised wrought iron.
- (iv) No action has been found necessary in respect of any form of contamination of the water supply.
- (v) (a) Number of dwelling-houses supplied direct from public water mains 1,474.
- Number of population supplied from public water mains 4,830.
- (b) Number of dwelling houses supplied by means of stand pipes 65.
- Number of population supplied by means of stand pipes 200.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. - The Urban District is sewered throughout with a system which needs much improvement as it is not capable of dealing with an excessive and sudden rainfall. The outfall is well below ordinary low water mark in the North Sea. A firm of Consulting Engineers have been asked by the Council to prepare a Scheme for the improvement of the sewerage system, which has now reached the stage of submission to the Ministry of Health.

3. Rivers and Streams. - Only one stream runs through the Urban District and it has not been necessary to take any action during the period to check pollution.

4. (a) Closet Accommodation. - All houses in the Urban District are fitted with water closets of a modern type. The sewerage system is flushed twice a week in the Summer months, and once a week in the Winter months. The dead-ends of the sewers are flushed by the use of a water cart in addition.
- (b) Public Cleansing. - Dust-bins are emptied once weekly by the Council's two motor refuse collection vehicles. Twice weekly refuse collection is made during the Summer months from boarding houses and hotels. House refuse is disposed of by the method of controlled tipping on a site on the outskirts of the District.
- (c) Schools. - The Schools are of a modern type, the water supply and sanitary conditions being quite satisfactory. In case of notifiable infectious diseases, the schools are at one visited by the Medical Officer of Health, the scholars inspected, and endeavour made to exclude infective children.
- (d) Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-Laws. - There is no Common Lodging House or Offensive Trade in the Urban District.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

- (a) Inspections and Visits. - The following inspections and visits have been carried out during the year:-

Inspections for housing defects and re-visits.....	43.
Sanitary routine inspections and re-visits.....	271.
Slaughterhouse and meat inspection.....	73.
Food premises and food inspection.....	75.
Dairy inspections.....	54.
Factory and Bakehouse inspections.....	19.
Visits in connection with milk sampling.....	16.
" " " " ice cream sampling.....	46.
" " " " water sampling.....	6.
" " " " infectious disease.....	11.
Number of rooms disinfected.....	6.
Inspection of dirty premises and re-visits.....	9.
Drainage inspections and re-visits.....	24.
Drain tests.....	4.
Rat destruction treatments and re-visits.....	171.
Inspection and visits in connection with Council properties.....	29.
Inspection and visits in connection with requisitioned properties and the housing of persons inadequately housed.....	27.
Miscellaneous visits.....	93.
- (b) Action taken in consequence of inspections:-

Informal Notices served.....	51.
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936.....	5.
- (c) Result of Action taken in consequence of Notices served:-

Defects remedied by Informal Notices.....	49.
" " " Statutory Notices.....	5.
- (d) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which an Undertaking not to use was accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.....	1.
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Number of dwelling houses in respect of which a Closing Order was made on part of the house under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936..... Nil.

(e) Summary of work carried out as a result of formal and informal action:-

Defective drains renewed.....	3.
Drains unblocked and cleansed.....	5.
Flushing apparatus provided to water closets.....	3.
" " repaired.....	2.
Trapped gullies provided.....	1.
Water closet pedestals renewed.....	3.
" " Seats renewed.....	3.
Sinks renewed.....	1.
Sink Waste Pipes renewed and trapped.....	3.
Water service pipes repaired.....	3.
Roofs repaired.....	4.
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt.....	2.
" pots renewed.....	3.
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed.....	6.
Rain Water downpipes repaired or renewed.....	6.
Windows repaired.....	3.
Wall plaster repaired.....	3.
Ceiling plaster repaired.....	3.
Firegrates repaired or renewed.....	4.
Floors repaired or renewed.....	3.
Sub-floor ventilation provided.....	1.
Water Closets rebuilt.....	3.
Wash-house structures rebuilt.....	2.
Damp Walls treated.....	2.
Dirty premises cleansed.....	3.
Deposits of refuse removed.....	3.
Dustbins provided.....	2.

(f) Number of inspections and visits in connection with the duties of Surveyor.

Number of Building Licences issued.....	64.
Total value " " ".....	£25,027.
Number of inspections and visits in connection with Building Licences.....	57.
Number of Building Plans submitted for approval.....	43.
" " " approved.....	43.
Visits in connection with the inspection of foundations and footings.....	36.
Visits in connection with the inspection of damp courses.....	18.
Visits in connection with building inspection.....	97.
Number of drain tests carried out in connection with new buildings.....	19.
Number of new houses erected during the year:-	
By the Local Authority.....	28.
By Other Persons.....	5.
Conversion of premises into family units.....	8.

The undermentioned salvaged materials have been collected during the period under review, giving an income of £199. 10. 0d., namely:-

Paper.....	23 Tons,
Rags.....	1¼ Tons,
Metal.....	18 Cwts.
Jars.....	57 Dozen.

- (g) Shops. - No action under this heading has been found necessary.
- (h) Camping Sites. - There are no camping sites in the Urban District.
- (i) Smoke Abatement. - No action under this heading has been found necessary.
- (j) Swimming Baths and Pools. - There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the Urban District.
- (k) Eradication of Bed-Bugs. - No action under this heading has been found necessary.

6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply. - There are no milk producers or cowkeepers within the Urban District.

Number of retail milk purveyors	...	...	...	5.
Number of Dealers licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" milk.				3.
Number of Dealers licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" milk..	...			1.
Number of Pasteuriser's licences	...	...	...	1.

Three samples of milk were taken during the period and submitted for Plate Count and Coliform tests with the following result:-

Number of samples found satisfactory	...	...	2.
Number of samples found unsatisfactory..	...		1.

Eleven samples of rinsings from milk pails, churns, measures, etc., have been taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following result:-

Number of satisfactory samples...	...	9.
Number of unsatisfactory samples.	...	2.

Forty samples of ice cream have been taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test with the following result:-

Eleven samples	...	...	...	Grade I.
Ten "	...	...	...	Grade II.
Five "	...	...	...	Grade III.
Fourteen "	...	...	...	Grade IV.

Four samples of water as supplied by the Sheringham Gas and Water Company to the consumers within this Urban District have been taken and all samples proved to be highly satisfactory.

- (b) Inspection of Meat and other Foods. - There are eight butcher's shops within the Urban District.

The slaughtering of food animals in this Urban District was discontinued under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, except for the slaughtering of "self-supplier" pigs.

Sixty-eight "self-supplier" pigs have been slaughtered within the Urban District and inspected during the period.

The undermentioned foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year, namely:-

Fresh meat and offal	...	...	...	268 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	1½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	84 lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	113 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	9½ lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	65½ lbs.
Tinned Soups	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	84.

Prepared food premises, restaurant kitchens, bakehouses and sausage making rooms, etc., are inspected regularly.

- (c) Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. - The appropriate Authority under this heading is the Norfolk County Council.
- (d) Nutrition. - No special work in the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been considered necessary.
- (e) Shellfish. - No shell-fish are gathered within the area of the Urban District.

7.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

- (a) There were eighty-three cases of Measles and two of Scarlet Fever notified during the year, all in children under ten. No cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever or Anterior Poliomyelitis were reported.

School notifications of suspected infectious disease or of contacts are regularly received.

The following tables give the cases notified:-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1949.

Infectious Diseases.	Cases Notified.							
	U'dr. 1 yr.	1 yr.	3 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	15 yrs.	25 yrs. & over	Unknown.
Measles.	2	14	18	47	2	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	14	18	50	2	-	-	-

(b) Comparison with England and Wales.

	<u>Sheringham</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>			
Birth Rate	16. 3	16.7	per 1,000	popl.	
Still Birth Rate	0	0.39	"	"	"
Maternal Mortality	0	0.98	"	"	"
Death Rate of					
Infants under 1 yr.	40	32	"	"	"
Death Rate	16.3	11.7	"	"	"
Death Rate from					
Tuberculosis	0.2	0.45	"	"	"
Notifications of					
Scarlet Fever	.0005	1.63	"	"	"
Measles	16.6	8.95	"	"	"

(c) Prevention of Blindness. - No action has been found necessary for the prevention or treatment of blindness.

(d) Tuberculosis. - No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

TUBERCULOSIS 1949.

New Cases and Removals from Register.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
No. of New Cases.	1	-	-	-
No. of Transfers.	-	1	-	-
No. of Removals -				
(a) Recovered.	-	-	1	1
(b) Left District.	1	-	-	-
(c) Died.	-	1	-	-

8. REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of</u>		
	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories with mechanical power.	14	7	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power.	5	2	Nil.
Other premises under the Act.	-	-	-
Total	19	9	Nil.

Defects found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	Number of Defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness.	2	2	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-
(Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(unsuitable	1	1	-	-
Sanitary (or defective	2	2	-	-
Conveniences (not separate	-	-	-	-
(sexes.	-	-	-	-
Other Offences.	3	3	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. H. Serrell, for his invaluable assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Howlett and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. H. F. NORBURY.
M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

